Policy Committee Minutes - December 19, 2007 Page 1

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Those present were: Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor; Susan Richardson, MDOT Planning; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Mike Niederquel, Wade Trim; Mike Stoner, Bay Metro Transit; Jim Bedell, Bay City Planning; Don Milne, Wilcox; Dave Geiger, MDOT-Saginaw; Terry Spegel, Hampton Township Supervisor, and; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Gaydos, seconded by Brandt, to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2007 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Stoner gave an update. Bay Metro was awarded a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant to provide off-hour access for Bay County residents for the purpose of easier access to job locations. This is a new program. Bay Metro will be able to subsidize the local cab company's normal fare down to the cost of a normal BMTA fare to get people to and from their places of employment during hours when the buses aren't in service. Stoner mentioned that Bay Metro is also working with the Saginaw Area Chippewa Indian Tribe to develop a way to get workers to and from the Standish Casino at shift change hours. Stoner gave an update about the House Sub-Committee he's on regarding public transportation funding. Stoner feels that this will be a great opportunity to make reforms in the current system. Currently there's no incentive to cut individual budgets without being penalized for the effort.

Henry Street Project Funding:

Engelhardt gave an update on where BCATS is with this project funding, stating that re-allocating the excess STP funds was being held up as we are waiting on award notice. Gaydos stated that the project has been awarded and that he would be able to provide Engelhardt with the exact amount for the project in order to have it correctly reflected in the TIP. Richardson warned against lump summing any STP projects. Engelhardt mentioned that he was interested in having a MDOT representative come to a BCATS Technical meeting to give some clarification on the pros and cons of Lump Sum vs. Pro Rata funding in the TIP. Engelhardt discussed the that the Henry Street Project bids had come in lower than expected and that there was more money allocated to the project than the actual project cost. Therefore, BCATS would like to reallocate the unused portion of the Henry Street Project funding. Currently there is support for allocating some or all of this funding to the Harrison Street Project. This redistribution would be reflected in the TIP

Policy Committee Minutes - December 19, 2007 Page 2

most likely at the February Tech and Policy meeting through a TIP amendment.

Harrison Street Project:

Engelhardt discussed the plan to reallocated the un-used funds from the Henry Street Project to the Harrison Street Project. Gaydos stated that the city of Bay City would like to have something in writing that states that BCATS will help with part of the Harrison Street Project funding. The Harrison Street Project, estimated cost of \$1.2 million, consists of six (6) blocks, currently two (2) of the blocks are only eligible for local funding and four (4) blocks are eligible for STP funding. Gaydos said that the ideal funding for this project would be 1/3 funding from the city of Bay City, 1/3 funding from STP funds, and 1/3 funding from Category A Funds. The city of Bay City is trying to get funding for this project organized and would like BCATS support. The Harrison project would be taking place in 2009.

The city of Bay City is also pursuing an NFC change for that portion of Harrison that is currently listed as local road, which would make it eligible for STP funding.

A motion was made by Stoner, seconded by Lillo, that BCATS supports the commitment of up to \$800,000.00 in funding of the unused STP funds that was allocated for the North Henry Street Project be reallocated to the Harrison Street Project. Motion passed.

National Functional Classification Changes:

Prairie Street

This is currently a vacated, non-dedicated road. Gaydos discussed that Prairie Street could not be brought back as a valid road until the three railroad crossings for that road were returned to that route. Railroad safety will not allow the three railroad crossings unless the city of Bay City gives up three other railroad crossings in the area. Additionally, the road right of way was vacated in the past and the city does not have ownership of the previous right of way. Therefore, nothing is being done with Prairie Street and it should be considered a vacated, non-dedicated road. Gaydos mentioned that Prairie Street is currently listed on the NFC, however the city doesn't have it listed as a road anywhere. Therefore, the city would like it removed from the NFC as it is a vacated road.

Harrison-McGraw

Based on discussions at the BCATS Technical meeting with Susan Berquist the city of Bay City along with BCATS is in the process of submitting a NFC classification change of Harrison Street and McGraw Street. The Technical Committee supported this application effort. Gaydos stated that he is ready to submit for the reclassification of Harrison St and McGraw St to MDOT and provided a map of Harrison Street and the surrounding area. Discussion

Policy Committee Minutes - December 19, 2007 Page 3

continued on the reclassification of this road and that it is a logical route. The BCATS Policy Committee supported the NFC change process.

Bay Arenac Drive (Skill Center Drive)

Engelhardt stated that during the last review of the NFC after the 2000 census, this road was looked at to be added to the NFC network. It wasn't at that time as traffic volumes taken during the weekdays did not support it. Since then, traffic volumes based on counts taken during the weekends better reflect the soccer fields actual traffic in the area. Additionally, the Bay Arenac ISD is constructing a new allied health medical training building there, so it is anticipated that the traffic flow will continue to increase. Lillo stated that the Road Commission is looking into the classification change for Bay-Arenac Drive and is currently trying to determine what the best fix to the road would be. The road is currently a county local road and not a primary road. The Road Commission would like the road fixed prior to taking it over and then being responsible for the costs. Engelhardt asked if Brandt and Lillo could discuss how they would like to proceed prior to the February BCATS Technical and Policy meetings.

Public Hearing on BCATS 2035 MTP Amendments:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Dale Majerczyk, Chairman of BCATS. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the amendment to the BCATS 2035 MTP. Engelhardt provided a handout outlining the proposed amendments and gave an overview of the changes. Engelhardt explained that he would like to make one amendment to the MTP to cover all the changes. In addition to the Harrison Street project and the Bay Arenac Drive project, the inclusion of inflation factors on future project cost. The amendment reflects changes due to the addition of inflation factors to project costs by all implementing agencies . Discussion ensued. The Public Hearing on BCATS 2035 MTP amendments was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

Amendment To BCATS 2035 MTP:

A motion was made by Bedell, seconded by Stoner, to make the amendments as proposed to the BCATS 2035 MTP. Motion Passed.

Public Hearing on BCATS 2008-11 TIP Amendments:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 2:22 p.m. by Dale Majerczyk, Chairman of BCATS. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the amendment to the BCATS 2008-11 TIP. Engelhardt provided a handout listing all the proposed amendments and gave an overview of the changes. Item #8 and Item #9 (transit projects) are un-blending two projects that were on the old TIP incorrectly, making them each separate projects. Item #10 (I-75 project) is an update so that the current cost is reflected. Item #11 (Midland Rd) is the cost, including the required

Policy Committee Minutes - December 19, 2007 Page 4

inflation adjustment. Discussion ensued. The Public Hearing on BCATS 2008-11 TIP amendments was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

Amendment To BCATS 2008-11 TIP:

A motion was made by Gaydos, seconded by Begick, to approve the listed amendments to the BCATS 2008-11 TIP. Motion Passed.

Consumers Energy Power Plant Transportation Impact:

Majerczyk updated members and explained that he was going to draft a letter in January, 2008 to Consumers requesting a meeting with them to discuss the possible transportation impacts the new power plant will have on Bay County, specifically the City of Essexville. The meeting would include Majerczyk (Essexville), Spiegel (Hampton Twp), and Engelhardt (BCATS) and Consumers Energy. The idea is to look at the Consumers Energy expansion to determine what impact it will have on the generation of additional/new traffic to the area. By looking at this issue before construction begins, it is believed that many concerns or issues can be addressed early so that the project runs as smoothly as possible.

Asset Management Asphalt Paving Seminar:

Engelhardt informed the committee on the upcoming Maintenance of Asphalt Pavement Seminar. Engelhardt received word from Rick Lilly, Michigan Asset Management Council, that attending this seminar is eligible for reimbursement through the Asset Management Council. Lillo added the that session is already full.

High Risk Rural and Local Safety Grant Applications:

This is an informational item to let members know that grant applications are available for both the High Risk Rural Grant and the Local Safety Grant.

Regional Path Study Update:

Engelhardt provided an update on the Regional Path Study. He explained that Dow Chemical has funded a two phase project through Saginaw County Parks and Recreation who has hired Spicer Engineering to review possible trail connections between existing trails in Bay, Saginaw and Midland counties. Phase 1 of the study involves a few local interested trail partners from Saginaw, Midland, and Bay Counties, which includes BCATS staff, doing an inventory of the existing trails and identifying logical paths and cost estimates that can connect these existing trails. Phase 2 will be to talk to the general public and cities and townships to engage them in conversations to identify priorities they have with regards to trail improvement and connections.

BCATS Annual Report:

Each year BCATS places a half-page ad in the Bay City Times. The purpose of the ad is to inform the public of BCATS activities during 2007 and upcoming activities/projects.

Policy Committee Minutes - December 19, 2007 Page 5

The BCATS Annual Report is published in the Bay City Times on the last Saturday in December, which will be December 29, 2007.

Ridge Road Letter:

Mr. Hickner sent a follow-up letter to Bill Keipert of the Columbus Avenue Management Board regarding the beautification of the Farmer's Market and improvements to Ridge Road. Hampton Twp, the Bay County Road Commission and the City of Bay City acknowledge that Ridge Road is in need of repair. Repair of resurfacing of Ridge Road would require coordination between several implementing agencies to do it correctly as it is a city major street in the City of Bay City and a county local road in the township. Currently there is no funding identified or available by any agency to repair or resurface Ridge Road. Ridge Road is listed in the BCATS Long Range Plan. This is an information item.

Project Updates:

The **North Henry Street Project Phase II & III** will begin March 10, 2008. The **Pine Road Project** will begin the first week of April for reconstruction and will include a sidewalk on the east side. The **Seven Mile Road Safety Project** will be let in spring 2008.

Other/New Business:

Legislation for Release of Funds:

Gaydos discussed the 1% spending requirement of Act51 dollars on non-motorized and the restrictions that this requirement has on the city of Bay City. Legislation is being brought forth to remove this requirement through Rep. Mayes.

Bay City Bridges:

Gaydos mentioned that the City of Bay City submitted an application to receive funding to paint the two city bridges to the state. The application was accepted to fund 95% of the construction in FY 2009. The job will be done during the winter months and the bridges will be closed during the painting.

Bay County Recreation Plan:

Engelhardt mentioned that an update on the Bay County Recreation Plan was beginning and asked if there was anything from a transportation stand point that should be included. BCATS staff will be working on updating the BCATS non-motorized plan during FY 2008 and most felt that the non-motorized plan would be a good inclusion.

Policy Committee Minutes - December 19, 2007
Page 6

As there was no further business, the December 19, 2007 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at $2.55 \, \text{p.m.}$

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul